

Indiana Dunes State Park

1600 N. 25 E.

Chesterton, Indiana 46304

NC # (219) 926-1390

Park Manager: Brandt Baughman

Asst. Park Manager: Doug Stukey



Snow Buntings

Nature Center Staff:

Brad Bumgardner

David Garner

December Nature Center Hours: 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CST

Closed Mondays

www.interpretiveservices.in.gov

All programs are free (unless otherwise noted) and open to the public after paying the park entrance fee. Our interpretive programs are designed to entertain and enrich folks of all ages. Children under 12, please bring a parent with you.

Saturday December 5

Duneland Winter Birding Days!

10am Bird Banding Demonstrations! See wild birds close up! Join the State Park Naturalists for this special program. The Naturalists will offer close up looks at many species of birds in the hand through 2pm. BB

2pm Whooo Goes There! Swoop in for a fun look at the owls of the Indiana Dunes. We'll look at the different kinds and their adaptations to survive in a world of darkness. Meet in the Nature Center Auditorium. DG

5pm Owls up Close! Bundle up and bring your blanket for an evening fire at the Wilson Shelter. We'll talk a little more about our special owls, then hike into the darkness to "hoot" one up. We'll have some hot cocoa to warm you up as well. Join us! BB

Sunday December 6

9am The World of Wacky Birds. Do woodpeckers really slam their heads at 12mph, do chickadees really live R-rated lives!? Find out on this discovery bird hike from the Nature Center. BB

10am Feed the Birds. Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get great close up views of chickadees, cardinals, and woodpeckers! Great fun for the kids. DG

2pm Winged Migration Visit the warm Nature Center for a look at this amazing documentary highlighting the mass migration of birds every year. Fly alongside them this afternoon.

Saturday December 12

10am Winter Signs. Venture into the winter woodlands this morning as we search for winter life amongst the snow and ice. Meet at the Nature Center for this one hour stroll. Bundle up and join us. BB

2pm Winter in the Dunes: A Slide Show Tour! Explore the winter beauty of the dunes from the comfort of the Nature Center Auditorium. We'll look at the changing season through some amazing photography. Bring the family. BB

Sunday December 13

10am Feed the Birds. Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get great close up views of chickadees, cardinals, and woodpeckers! Great fun for the kids. BB

2pm Indiana State Parks: 100 years of Fun! Come to the Nature Center for a peak at the new Indiana State Parks documentary celebrating our 100th anniversary coming up. Titled "Indiana State Parks: Treasures in your Backyard," this PBS production captures many of the early parks, such as the dunes. Total time approximately 50 minutes. Join us!

Saturday December 19

Indiana Dunes Christmas Bird Count. Our annual all day big event for serious birders. Day begins at 7am at the Nature Center. RSVP by calling 926-1390 by December 15.

10am Dunes Geology Winter is a great time to see the geology and topography of the dunes. Learn about how the dunes were formed with geologist Dale this morning at the Nature Center Auditorium.

2pm Hike/Ski to Beaver Lodge! Join David and Deanna outside of the Nature Center for a hiking or skiing trek to the beaver lodge. Bring your own skies or use some of ours, dependent on snow conditions. Sizes and quantity are limited; call the Nature Center to check for availability. Great trail for the beginners. DG

Sunday December 20

10am Feed the Birds. Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get great close up views of chickadees, cardinals, and woodpeckers! Great fun for the kids. DG

2pm Snow Snakes! Meet the resident snakes of the Indiana Dunes this afternoon. Slither into the Nature Center Auditorium for this close up look. Great program, even if you're uncomfortable around these reptiles. Join us! DG

Tuesday December 22

2pm Winter Solstice Stroll. It's the first day of winter and we'll celebrate with a winter stroll into the wetlands. We'll explore how the lack of sun affects the plants and animals in the dunes. Join us at the Nature Center for this 45-minute easy hike. DG

7pm Image Makers Nature Photo Club. Image Makers is a monthly nature photo club for nature enthusiasts. Each meeting is informal and usually features a special photo program and photo sharing. Whether you bring photos or not, the public is welcome to come and take part. Program takes place in the Nature Center Auditorium.

Wednesday December 23

10am Winter Dune Tops. Take a winter stroll to the top of Mt. Tom this morning. We'll meet at the Nature Center and take a moderate hike to the highest point in the park. Bundle up and join us! BB

Thursday December 24

Nature Center closes at 3pm today.

10am 3rd Annual Christmas Eve Shopping Stroll. You say you have your shopping done? Great, join us for our traditional Christmas Eve stroll through the dune forests. We'll explore the winter life and beauty of the dunes on this 45-minute walk. Come out and start a new family tradition with us! BB

Friday December 25

**Merry Christmas!
Nature Center Closed Today**



Saturday December 26

10am After Christmas Birds. Put up your new toys for a little bit and enjoy a refreshing morning hike in search of the wintering birds in the Indiana Dunes. Bring binocular if you have some, or borrow a pair of ours and meet at the Nature Center for this 45-minute stroll. BB

2pm Indiana State Parks: 100 years of Fun! Come to the Nature Center for a peak at the new Indiana State Parks documentary celebrating our 100th anniversary coming up. Titled "Indiana State Parks: Treasures in your Backyard," this PBS production captures many of the early parks, such as the dunes. Total time approximately 50 minutes. Join us!

Sunday December 27

10am Recycled Bird Feeders. Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Afterwards, we'll make some special recycled bird feeders for the kids to take home. Great holiday activity. BB

2pm Indiana State Parks: 100 years of Fun! Come to the Nature Center for a peak at the new Indiana State Parks documentary celebrating our 100th anniversary coming up. Titled "Indiana State Parks: Treasures in your Backyard," this PBS production captures many of the early parks, such as the dunes. Total time approximately 50 minutes. Join us!

Tuesday December 29

2pm Dunes Creek Stroll. Learn about the new Dune's Creek restoration project going on now on this easy 30 minute walk. Meet at the Campground Gate. DG

Wednesday December 30

10am End of the Year Waterfowl Tour.

Waterfowl are now wintering along the Lake Michigan shoreline. Meet the Naturalist for a car pool tour to find some great congregations of many duck species. We'll likely drive 10 minutes to the Port of Indiana for some great looks at scaup, mergansers, buffleheads, and more. Bring your driver's license for access to this unique location. BB

Thursday December 31

Nature Center closes at 3pm today.

4pm 3rd New Year's Eve Blue Moon Stroll.

Yes, it's a blue moon night! Meet us at the Beach Pavilion for an evening winter stroll before the partying sets in. We'll hike to Trail 3 for a view of the rising moon to the east. Bundle up and join us today! BB

Friday, January 1

Happy New Year!
Nature Center Closed Today



Saturday January 2

10am Indiana Dunes Bowl Hike! Meet at the Nature Center for an hour hike to Ecology Cove. Learn why this spot is one of the Naturalist's favorite in the park. We will be back in time for the first bowl kickoff. DG

2pm Snow Stories! Meet the naturalist in the Nature Center Auditorium to unravel the puzzles left in the snow. Can you determine what really happen? DG

Sunday January 3

10am Feed the Birds. Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get great close up views of chickadees, cardinals, and woodpeckers! Great fun for the kids. DG

2pm Shelf Ice: A Slide Show Tour Come to the Nature Center for a look at the beauty of the beach in the winter time. This 30 minute program will examine how these structures form, along with why they are so dangerous. DG

Find These Programs and others at Indiana State Parks and Reservoirs On-line at
www.interpretiveservices.in.gov

Make a campsite or shelter reservations at
1-866-622-6746 or
on-line at www.CAMP.IN.gov

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